* Enhancement complementary feeding rate at six months from the current level 33.5 per cent (as per NFHS-2) to 75 per cent.

* Bringing down the prevalence of underweight in children from the current level of 47 per cent to 40 per cent.

* Reduction in prevalence of severe undernutrition in children in the 0.6 years age group by 50 per cent.

**Monitoring of items of Ministries**

320. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that PMO has selected over a hundred items from various Ministries for regular monitoring;

(b) if so, the details of the items identified;

(c) the progress observed by the Prime Minister;

(d) whether it is also a fact only half of the items have recorded impressive performance;

(e) if so, the reasons for the lack of progress in the rest of the items; and

(f) the steps being taken for uniform progress of these subjects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) 31 Thrust Areas relating to schemes and projects have been identified for monitoring by the Prime Minister. A list of these 31 Thrust Areas is given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(c) to (f) The over all performance of implementation of these Ti irust Areas is observed to be satisfactory. The performance of the Thrust Areas involving participation of a number of agencies arid the State Governments, however, indicates further scope for improvement. Thrust Areas requiring involvement of multiple agencies and participation of various State Government authorities are expedited through coordination meeting at higher levels. In some Thrust Areas, Group of Ministers monitors to expedite the concurrence and views of-the participating agencies.

***Statement***

*Monitoring of Items of Ministries*

**Thrust Areas to be monitored by Prime Minister**

| No | Ministry/Department | Proposed Reform |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | (2) | (3) |
| 1. | Administrative Reforms/Information Technology | Monitor and expedite finalisation and subsequent implementation of National Action Plan on e-governance-Work out and monitor time lines for various proposed action. Similarly address issues related to setting up of NISG. |
| 2. | Agriculture and Cooperation, Agriculture Research and Education | Preparation of a National Action Plan, focusing on measures to be undertaken, during the next 10 years, towards increasing agricultural productivity and doubling food production by 2010. |
| 3. | Agriculture and Cooperation, Food & PD | Formulate a crop neutral income support scheme to overcome and shortcomings in the MSP encourage crop diversification and cost efficient agricultural production. Also prepare policy to encourage decentralized procurement including private trade participation.' |
| 4. | Atomic Energy | Formulation of a National Agenda on utilisation of nuclear technology for developmental applications. |
| 5. | Civil Aviation | Formulation of a new Civil Aviation Policy to comprehensively address issues related to the Civil Aviation Industry. |
| 6. | Commerce | Formulating appropriate policy and creating enabling environment to increase India's share in world exports from the 'existing level of 0.6% to 1%. |

| (1) | (2) | (3) |
|---|---|---|
| 7. | Development of North-East/MHA | Revitalising North-Eastern Council to ensure teritorial integrity of the States of the NE. Special developmental, administrative and security related programmes including fencing of remaining portion of Indo Bangladesh border and construction of roads. |
| 8. | Environment and Forests | Formulate National Environment Policy to harmonise the demands of development and environment. |
| 9. | Finance (Economic Affairs) | Develop Government's Philosophy on Regulation with necessary sectoral variants to be the underlying basis for Regulatory arrangements across various sectors. Base Paper could be prepared by PMC/DEA. |
| 10. | Finance (Economic Affairs) | Formulate a National Policy on Subsidies, which would' dentify target groups, goods & services, subsidy norms, and an exit strategy for existing subsidies which are inconsistent with the policy. |
| 11. | Finance (Revenue) | Comprehensive computerisation of Income Tax system to benefit IT payers and improve tax administration. |
| 12. | Health and Family Welfare | Monitor implementation of National Population Policy, especially initiatives overseen by empowered Action Group in MoHFW to focus on the eight States that are lagging behind (UP, Bihar, MP, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh). |
| 13. | Human Resource Development | Prepare specific Action Plan to provide the legal/institutional mechanism to operationalise the fundamental right to elementary education. |

| (1) | (2) | (3) |
|---|---|---|
| 14. | IT/Home | Devise the content of the proposed machine readable identity card scheme to cater for/enable linkages across sectors/data bases to facilitate use of the number as the underlying cross-linked identification number for all possible governmental intervention. |
| 15. | Land Resources/Agriculture | Finalise policy institutional arrangements and content related to PM's Jal Samvardhan Yojna and facilitate its implementation. |
| 16. | Personnel & Training | Civil Service Reforms to improve transparency, accountability, honesty, efficiency and sensitivity in public administration at all levels. |
| 17. | Power | Formulate a Policy for Rural Electrification that creates an enabling, de-regulated environment for private initative and encourages the use of Non-conventional energy sources. |
| 18. | Power | Institutionalize mechanisms for accelerating private/FDI investment including SPVs, BOT, disinvest & reinvest, etc. |
| 19. | Rural Development | Develop policy framework for greening of wastelands through people's participation and PPP. |
| 20. | Rural Development | Implementation of PM's announcement at the National conclave on PRI's held in April 2002 to bring about financial/ administrative empowerment of PRI's, which would enable PRI's to *inter alia,* raise funds through the market, user charges etc. |

| (1) | (2) | (3) |
|---|---|---|
| 21. | Rural Development | Monitor implementation of PMGSY and examine possibilities for allocation of greater resources, including from MFIs, which was under consideration. |
| 22. | Rural Development | Monitor implementation of SGRY with a view to ensuring efficacy in the creation of work opportunities. The efficacy and effectiveness of the food for work element in the scheme may be studied by Planning Commission, in light of poor management of this aspect. |
| 23. | RD assisted by other Development Ministries | An effective system of monitoring be designed and put in place to ensure proper utilisation of development funds at the district and lower levels. |
| 24. | Road Transport & Highways | Timely completion of the golden Quadrilateral and North-south and East-West Coridors. |
| 25. | Space | Formulation of a National Agenda for the' utilisation of space technology for developmental applications. |
| 26. | Textiles | Speedy implementation of the assistance package announced by PMfor the weavers and artisans! |
| 27. | Urban Development | Ensure finalisation of Model Municipal Law and facilitate necessary followup actions for adoption by States. |
| 28. | Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation | Finalisation of National Policy on slums. |
| 29. | Water Resources | Promotion of participatory irrigation management, rationalisation of water charges and fixing norms for establishment component in O&M. |

| (1) | (2) | (3) |
|---|---|---|
| 30. | Water Resources | Finalization of the Action Plan and Institutional Machinery for the National Programme on inter-linking of rivers. |
| 31. | Water Resourcs/Law | Enact Central Legislation for control of ground water exploitation and rain water harvesting and encourage States to adopt model bill to regulate/develop ground water resources. |

**Schemes for backward and naxalite affected areas**

321. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR.
T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to take steps and chart out plans for development issues;

(b) if so, what are the priority agenda for this;

(c) whether Prime Minister has offered a special gift to people living in 25 most backward districts by providing for them Rs. 15 Crore per year;

(d) if so, whether during Tenth Plan period, Rs. 45 crore would be spent in each backward district;

(e) whether in coming three years, Rs. 5,940 crore would be spent to develop 132 poorest and Naxalite infested districts in the country; and

(f) by when the development of these districts would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The Planning Commission has launched a new initiative in the Tenth Plan, namely, the backward Districts Initiative under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. Under this Initiative, 100 most backward districts in various States have been identified. In addition, 32 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism have also been identified. The main objectives of the scheme are to address the problems of low agricultural Productivity, unemployment and to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure.